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## Appendix A

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### Analysis of Scoping Comments

#### Lochsa-Selway PIT Tag Array SUP

Four letters and emails were received during the scoping period of July 31, 2015 to August 15, 2015. The letters and emails were analyzed and an analysis code assigned to the comments (Table 1).

#### Comment Analysis Codes

- 1: Outside the scope of the proposed action.
- 2: Already decided by law, regulation, Forest Plan, or other higher level of decision.
- 3: Irrelevant to the decision to be made.
- 4: Conjectural and not supported by scientific evidence.
- 5: General comment, suggestion, opinion, or position statement.
- 6: Other agency or partner's consultation, review, advice, recommendation(s), etc.
- 7: Already considered in the proposed action or is standard procedure.
- 8: Will be included in an analysis of effects to the environment.

Codes 1 – 6 are standard codes. Comments assigned to these codes are considered to be non-significant issues. Code 7 was added as a category for those suggestions that are already proposed or for procedures that are routinely done. Code 8 was added as a category for suggestions that are included and will be analyzed for effects to the environment.

**Table 1: Project Name Comment Analysis**

Commenter	Comment	Disposition
Jonathan Oppenheimer, Idaho Conservation League	In general, the Idaho Conservation League (ICL) supports the installation of PIT tag detection sites as they will help both the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and Nez Perce Tribe better manage sensitive fish species.	Thank you for your comment.
	We ask that the USFS ensure that the Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the Lochsa and Selway Rivers are not affected.	7
	We suggest IDFG and the Nez Perce Tribe carefully follow NOAA Fisheries recommendations to properly install, maintain, and utilize PIT systems: <a href="http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/research/divisions/fe/instream/b-pit-introduction.cfm">http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/research/divisions/fe/instream/b-pit-introduction.cfm</a>	7
Gary Mcfarlane Friends of the Clearwater	Because this is located within the Selway and Lochsa Wild and Scenic Rivers, and in the case of location 1, on the boundary of the Rackliff Gedney Roadless Area, more than a cursory CE should be done.	2, 5
	While the installation of these stations may not conflict with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, that determination needs to be made through a more detailed environmental analysis, most likely an environmental assessment (EA), with public involvement.	2, 5

Commenter	Comment	Disposition
Gary Mcfarlane Friends of the Clearwater	Without doing an EA, it can't be determined that PIT tags, rather than GSI, is the most viable option.	2, 5
	The scoping letter alleges the need to differentiate between the Lochsa and Selway Rivers, but gives not reasons why this is indeed necessary. In any case, PIT tagging may not differentiate between the Lochsa and Selway either. If tagging occurs downstream of the confluence, there is no way of determining whether a fish came from the Lochsa or Selway. The tagged fish may be inadvertently biased for one or the other rivers.	See Response 1
	If tagging occurs in the individual rivers themselves, the scoping letter doesn't reveal how wild smolts migrating to the Pacific will be caught in the Selway and Lochsa Rivers and any infrastructure that may be necessary to do that. The scoping letter does also not reveal whether only wild smolts will be tagged or whether some kind of out-planting program will be used.	See Response 2
	An EA is also needed to consider, among other issues, visual impacts from the structures in the rivers. The antennae are clearly visible in photos where they occur on other rivers on the NMFS/NOAA website <a href="http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/research/divisions/fe/instream/b-pit-introduction.cfm">http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/research/divisions/fe/instream/b-pit-introduction.cfm</a> . A twenty-foot antenna is not small. Given the clear water of the Lochsa and Selway Rivers, the infrastructure will be visible for much of the year.	2, 5
	Finally, it may be that the project would fit within the constraints of the law. However, a more rigorous analysis and public comment are needed before making that determination.	5
Bernie Hermann Lewis-Clark ATV Club Inc.	The Lewis-Clark ATV Club Inc. supports the project.	Thank you for your comment.
Daniel Stewart, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality	Project activities may affect the Nez Perce-Clearwater NF's ability to support designated and existing beneficial uses.	5

### **Forest Service Response to Comments**

**Response 1:** The PIT-tagging effort that is being used to estimate adult steelhead and Chinook escapement into the Lochsa and Selway River drainages is based on downstream tagging at Lower Granite Dam. A subsample of wild fish are collected and PIT-tagged at the Lower Granite Dam adult fish trap. These fish are subsampled at a known trap rate. With that information PIT-tag detections at arrays across the Snake River DPS can be expanded to generate adult escapement estimates. Therefore you can generate production and productivity metrics for both the Lochsa and Selway Rivers independently. This is significant since these fish populations may operate independently with regards to their production and productivity and management strategies and focus are different between the Lochsa and Selway Rivers. In order to maximize the utility of the data collected in the upper Clearwater River drainage management agencies need drainage specific data in both the Lochsa and Selway River drainages.

**Response 2:** The project does not propose to “tag” salmon or steelhead smolts or adults. The purpose of the project is to use the instream PIT-tag detection sites (antenna arrays) in the Lochsa and Selway Rivers to tally previously PIT-tagged adults migrating past the sites to estimate adult salmon/steelhead abundance and to characterize their migration timing.